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Score Vintage Flea Market Treasures

on the cover

62 SWEDISH FARMHOUSE STYLE

See how this Swedish farmhouse combines art, antiques and accessories with a fresh color palette for unparalleled charm.

By Meryl Schoenbaum

74 A LITTLE GREEN COTTAGE

Learn how a light, airy home came into being through renewing flea-market finds and vintage treasures.

By Jenna Dixon

80 NEVER SKIPPING A BEAT

Check out this hard-working, multi-tasking little kitchen that's full of life and charm.

By Melinda Graham

Cover Photo by Stefano Scata/The Interior Archive
Styling by Michela Goldschmied

come inside

20 SO PRETTY

Discover how a few coats of paint will revitalize your kitchen.

By Devlin Smith

22 HAPPY KITCHEN

Decorate your kitchen with the natural beauty of the fall harvest.

By Syl Loves

32 TA DA

End your Thanksgiving celebration with coffee and a delicious rose apple tart, served up on lovely, treasured dishes.

By Diane Sedo

44 START CELEBRATING!

Be sure you include these beautiful, festive details when you celebrate the holidays.

By Jacqueline deMontravel

50 ENDLESS BEAUTY

See how the historic building where this shop owner lives and works is decorated from top to bottom in antique style.

By Liselotte Flu/IDECORimages.com

86 PERSONALIZE

Use these tasseled napkins to dress up an everyday table or bring panache to special occasions.

By Ayda Algin

bring it home

18 MY HOME

Readers share amazing stories about their homes.

38 SAY AHH

Check out this magnificent lace shop and museum devoted to the world's most romantic fabric.

By Jo-Anne Coletti



44



62

90 MAKE IT

These unique DIY candles will add pizzazz to any celebration.

By Victoria Hudgins

92 SECRET GARDENS

A new book shows how creating a stunning garden is as simple as not being afraid to try something out of the ordinary.

By Rebekah Wahlberg

shopping

10 BROWSING

These classic accessories will add punch to your kitchen.

By Jacqueline deMontraval

96 SHOPPING GUIDE

Where to find the products featured in this issue.



50



74

in every issue

6 XO

8 LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

96 COMING NEXT MONTH

98 FAVORITES



86



80



10



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Inherent Foundation

The traits you will have when you grow up

can usually be identified early on. There are the obvious indicators such as a chef who spent every available moment in an apron at Mom's side in the kitchen or the architect who graduated from blocks to a protractor.

It dawned on me that there were subtle moments in my childhood that led me to my vocation. I recall a book I read in the first grade about a couple who adored their friend's home and tried to sell theirs in order to find a similar residence. After many showings, they made slight alterations to their home with paint and flower boxes until the result pleased them enough to stay. The film *Baby Boom* was also an influence, the lead played by Diane Keaton, who left the city for a sprawling country house in Vermont

and toiled over constant renovations. In my early adult years, the book *A Year in Provence* excited me, as I followed the story of renovating an old home through the seasons, harboring a dream of finding a property in a foreign territory to refurbish.

I am in the process of renovating my fifth home. As much as I complain about misleading paint chips and having cuticles down to the quick from ripping up old carpet, there is also an obsession over every detail that will make a home unique. It comes from this inherent quality of trying to beautify something with a strong foundation by using a little ingenuity.

XO

Jacqueline L. deMontravel
Jacqueline deMontravel
Content Director/Editor

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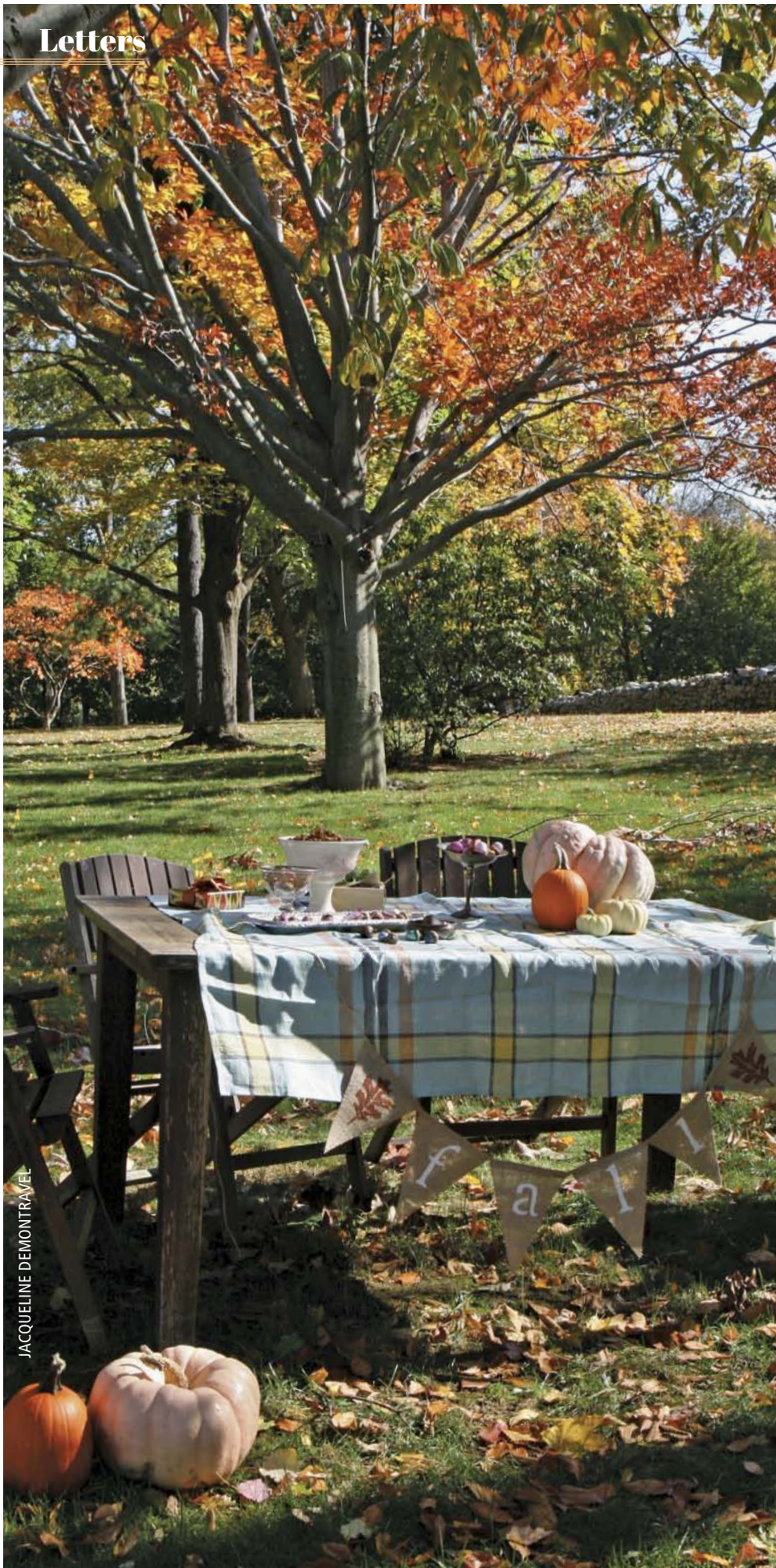
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I pour over years of issues for my craft ideas and have a booth at a shop in San Antonio, Texas, called The Homestead (homesteadhandcrafts.com).

I have seen these old shopping carts in your issues from time to time but never saw one for sale. Last week I found this basket and couldn't believe it. My son took a picture, and then I decided to trim it with lace and a garland that I've had for years. Here you have *before* and *after* pictures, which I enjoy every day I look at them.

PATTY HARPER, AGE 91
VIA EMAIL



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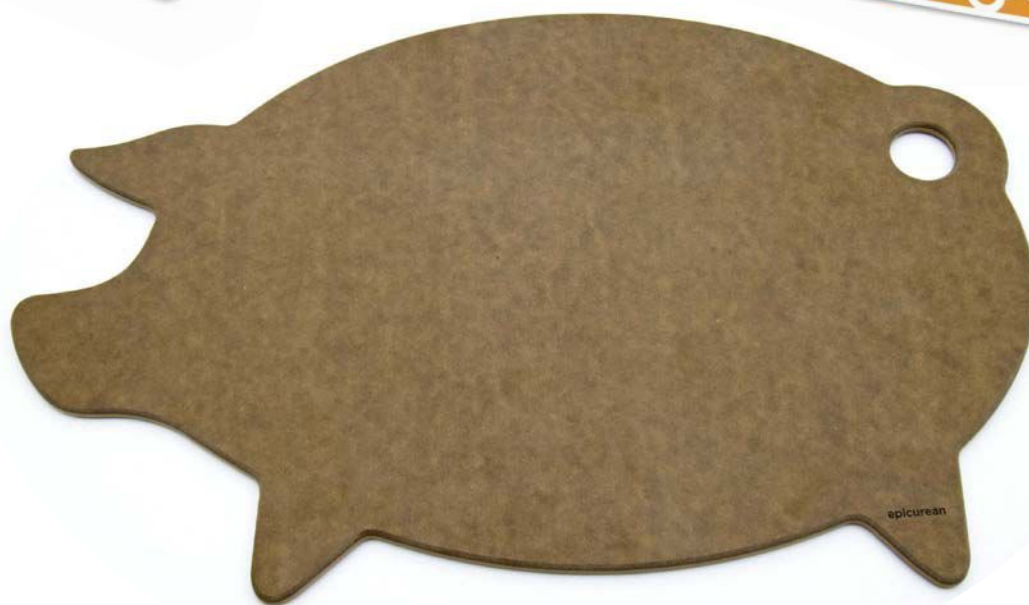
Classic accessories add punch to your kitchen.

By Jacqueline deMontravel



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A Well-Crafted Shed



A friend, Dick Knode, talked me into buying a shed

to put things in that were clogging my upstairs. He said he would insulate it, wallpaper it, etc. He sold me windows that he was going to use for his own house. The shed company put in the windows and two doors. They raised the roof since the windows were so large and added a small window over one door.

Dick came up to Pennsylvania from Maryland once a week for a year and finished my shed. Nobody thinks it should be called a shed, but now it is a habit.

I got to use my overhead lights that I had found at a flea market and used in my old kitchen. Something told me to save them, but I save everything. I also found a bench that was made from an old rope bed. At a resale place I found

the large corner cupboard made like they used to make furniture. I went three times to measure to make sure it would fit. The smaller cabinet was found in Maryland at a flea market, plus the red lampshade.


Since I can't lift my sewing machine anymore, I wanted a sewing/craft room. I had the sewing machine table from years ago and a chair that was my grandmother's. I changed two curtains from my third floor in my old house into three and got to display my antique candy molds. The floor lamp base, rocking horse and small painted black chairs were from auctions.

Not many of the upstairs items made it to the shed. I wanted my Red Riding Hood collection of dolls and things, but only several have made it into the shed

so far. Dick also sold me venetian blinds pulled from his wife's yard sale so the dolls won't fade, but the snow came so they aren't up yet. A dollhouse, miniature bakeshop with upstairs sewing shop and my train shop are yet to be moved also.

The shed is heated with the cutest red stove and is also air-conditioned. I can turn on the heat from inside the house to warm it up. A fourth of it is a closet to store more items and my card table for cutting fabric.

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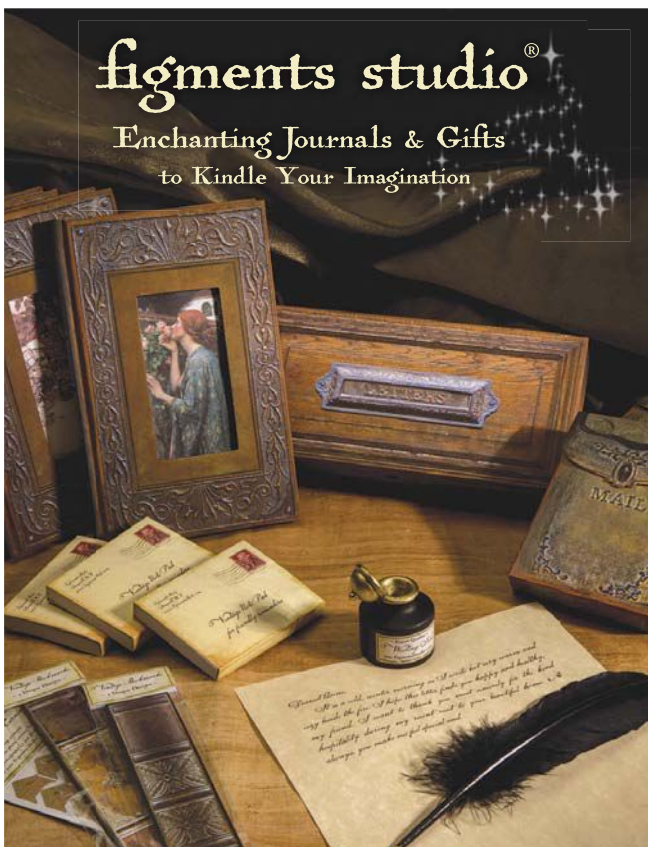
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FRESHENED UP

See how a few coats of paint can reinvigorate your kitchen.

By Devlin Smith • Photography by Bret Gum

It's amazing the difference a paint job can make in your home.

Give your kitchen a new look by changing the color or finish on your cabinets, as these homeowners did.

Before heading down to the home improvement store for paint, brushes and the rest, consider the following to ensure you'll create the kitchen of your dreams.

1. KNOW YOUR MATERIALS. If you have a newer home, you may have builders' grade MDF or vinyl-coated cabinets, to which paint won't adhere. In that case, refacing may be the best option. For older homes, the type of wood you have will affect the end result.

"Maple or cherry wood will have a smooth appearance when painted, while the grain lines will show on painted oak," says Tony Chaffee, operations manager with Schoenbauer Furniture Service in Charlotte Hill, Maryland. "Professionally painted oak cabinets can be grain-filled to produce a smooth finish."

2. CHECK THE CONDITIONS. If your cabinets are able to be painted, be sure they're in good shape before getting out the paintbrush. Look for chips and gouges, recommends Ron Jacobsen, vice president of technical review for National Restorations LLC in Richmond, Virginia, and make any necessary repairs.

3. CLEAN IT UP. Kitchen cabinets can get greasy, which will make painting a challenge. "If grease has been left on the finish, it can penetrate the wood and cause a reaction when the paint or finish is applied," Tony warns.

Be sure to give them a proper cleaning. "Wipe [the cabinet] down with mineral spirits or a degreaser," Ron recommends.

4. DO PREP WORK. Once cleaned, the cabinets need to be roughed up to be ready for painting.

"Preparing the surface is more important than the paint type," Tony says. "They must be clean and scuffed to allow the paint to adhere. If the cabinets are already painted, they should be primed first."

5. CONSIDER UPGRADES. In addition to changing the color, you can change the knobs and other hardware with pieces found at the flea market or hardware store. You could also update your cabinets with some modern conveniences.

"We see people adding things like slide outs in the cabinets, which makes it easier to access everything in the lower cabinets," Ron says.

6. DO MAINTENANCE. Take proper care of your newly painted cabinets to maintain their refreshed look and condition. Soap and water work well, according to Ron, though some cabinets may require a softer touch.

"Stained and finished wood cabinets should be maintained the same way a person cares for a piece of furniture," Tony says. "Clean with a damp, soft cloth and apply polish sparingly, only once or twice a year."

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96.



FALL harvest

Written, photographed and styled by Syl Loves

Decorate your kitchen with the natural beauty the season has to offer.

Every season of the year has something beautiful about it,

but fall feels especially magical—the last warm days, first cold breezes and amazing colors. Oranges and yellows, browns and dark reds dominate this time of year. The whiff of smoke coming from a chimney and leaves gathering on the ground mean it's time to enjoy autumn outside.

Make sure when you grab your bike or take a walk in nature you never come back empty-handed. There are so many fall treasures on the ground for you to pick up and use to create lovely decorations for your home. Leaves, mushrooms, nuts, brunches and flowers will make amazing arrangements for a coffee table or a shelf. Mix them with fruits like apples or pears, or vegetables harvested in your own garden—they all look so pretty.



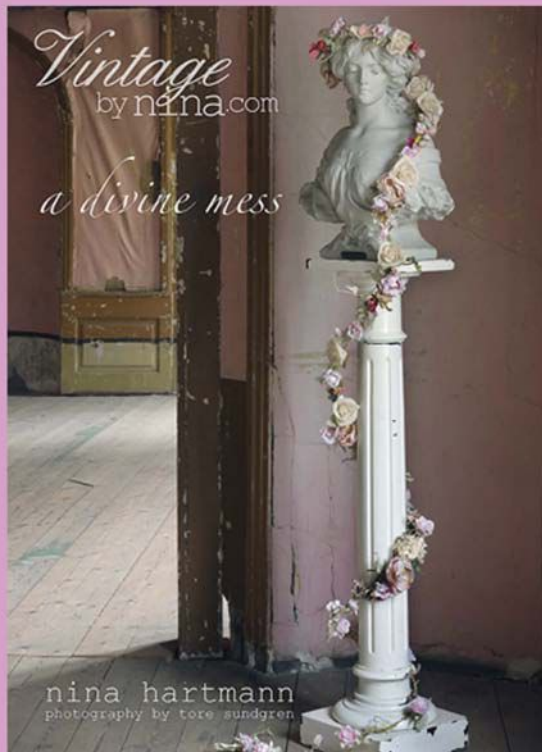
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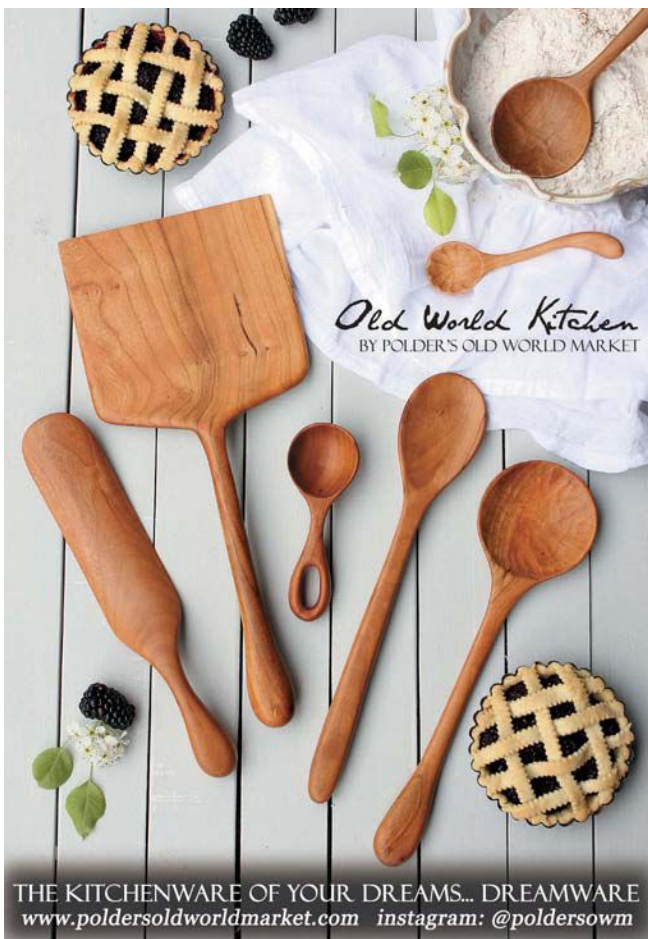


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Happy Kitchen



NEED AN IDEA FOR WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THOSE AUTUMN DECORATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TUCKED AWAY IN DRAWERS? How about putting them on display in your kitchen? I used these lovely flea-market shelves to bring a warm and cozy feeling to the room.

TO ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL FALL COLORS A LITTLE LONGER, collect pretty leaves and arrange them in vintage vases. A page out of a vintage fashion magazine matches the rich colors perfectly.



PUMPKINS ARE NICE FOR THE EYE AND FOR EATING. But before you try any of the thousands of pumpkin recipes out there, use the pumpkins for decoration. They simply are a must in an autumn home.

AN OLD BAKING TRAY FILLED WITH LEAVES AND QUINCES makes an extraordinary table centerpiece. Quinces have such a lovely aroma that fills the whole room.

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A MEAL TASTES SO MUCH BETTER WHEN THE SURROUNDINGS FIT THE OCCASION. Adding a few leaves here, a pumpkin there, or whatever means autumn to you, will give your guests and family a full dining experience they'll just love you for.



For more on Syl, visit
syl-loves.com.

BEAUTIFULLY *Set*

By Diane Sedo

Photography by Jackie Torres

A rose apple tart and a cup of coffee served from treasured dishes are a sweet ending to a Thanksgiving celebration.

It's Thanksgiving time again.

Whether you're hosting your first Thanksgiving dinner, you're a veteran party hostess or, like me, you are happy to host a few friends after the main meal for dessert and coffee, Thanksgiving is an exciting time to bring out your treasured holiday pieces.

I'm at a point in my busy life where I'm not interested in acquiring new things, so instead I search through my cupboards and use what I have when it comes time to set the holiday table. My grandmother's linens, my mother's silver and my Furnivals Quail transferware dishes, a gift from my mother's friend Odessa, have pride of place on my dessert table, as they did on my elaborate family Thanksgiving dinner tables in years past.

THE TABLE SETTING

For me, the most important part of planning a family celebration is bringing my own history and vintage style to it. Gatherings are about enjoying each other's company, and my kitchen table is the most convivial spot for a casual dessert.

NO MATTER WHERE GUESTS LOOK, details like intricately folded napkins, gold-rimmed glasses and colorful servings of fruit offer something to be admired.







A setting like this just takes moments to assemble.

To make my presentation especially memorable, I used my grandmother's colorful tablecloth and embroidered runner under the tableware. Year after year, her turkey planter filled with fresh blooms in seasonal colors has added the finishing touch to my Thanksgiving table.

I wanted my dessert to look especially festive, so I repurposed extra Quail transferware dishes to make a clever tiered stand. Guests gather around my Hamilton Beach Buffet Party Percolator, which hails from the 1950s. A cup of coffee and a warm apple tart á la mode are a sweet ending to a day spent with loved ones.

TIPS:

- I repurposed extra Quail transferware dishes to make a tiered display for the apple tarts. You'll need a dinner plate, inverted coffee cup, bread and butter plate and two doilies to create the display.
- For a romantic candlelight dinner, add tall tapered candles to your table.
- Fresh blooms in seasonal colors add the finishing touch to the table.

◀ **THE 1940S TURKEY PLANTER**, passed down to me from my grandmother, makes the table more charming.

(OPPOSITE) FAMILY AND FRIENDS GATHER in my kitchen for a Thanksgiving dessert of apple tarts.

Diane Sedo is co-author of *Taking Tea with Alice* (1997 Warner Books, 2007 Benjamin Press) and is a certified instructor of Dorothea Johnson's Tea & Etiquette program (Elmwood Inn Fine Teas). Follow her two Facebook pages: Sentimental Celebrations, and Tea Cups and Cupcakes.





▲ MY FURNIVALS QUAIL 1913 brown transferware dishes.

▼ THE TARTS ARE DISPLAYED on transferware pieces repurposed as a tiered display.



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HEIRLOOM IRISH *Lace*

Lace—the world’s most romantic fabric—flaunts its dainty compositions in a magnificent lace shop and museum in the quaint village of Bellanaleck, Northern Ireland.

By Jo-Anne Coletti

Photography by Helen Cathcart

Lace has been called “the poetry of fashion”

and holds a sense of mystery in the collector’s mind that asks not only about its origin, but also about the skillful hands of the artist. There is no signature, yet lace admirers are captivated by the delicate patterns that portray a timeless tale of beauty, history and skill.

“Lace is my passion,” says Rosemary Cathcart, whose private collection of antique Irish lace is one of Northern Ireland’s most exquisite exhibits. Rosemary has been a collector of antique lace for over 30 years, her interest sparked by a small piece of fine lace she came across in an antiques shop. She purchased most of her items from textile auctions and bought only the best pieces that could be acquired.

“I wanted only the very best examples in my collection of old lace, both in the quality of the work, but also in the design,” she says.

As Rosemary’s collection grew, she thought it would be a lovely idea to have her lace pieces permanently on display. In 1998, The Sheelin Antique Irish Shop & Museum, set in the picturesque

ROSEMARY RECENTLY OPENED A SECOND SHOP IN LONDON with her daughter Helen. Sheelin Lace London is located at Alfies Antique Centre in Marylebone.





“I wanted only the very best examples in my collection of old lace, both in the quality of the work but also in the **design.**”

Say Ahh

village of Bellanaleck, opened its doors, exhibiting a glorious array of rare Irish laces, wedding gowns, veils and parasols, open-woven fabrics, fine nets and Irish crochet lace from the 1850–1900 period. A shop was later attached, offering beautiful antique lace items that are from the same period as those in the museum collection.

Rosemary enjoys making beautiful lace displays and suggests her customers should not hide their lace away in a drawer but display it where it can be seen, even if it is just draped over a chair.

“If it’s a small piece of lace you love, frame it so that it can be admired as it is—after all, it is a work of art,” she says.



For more on Rosemary Cathcart, visit irishlacemuseum.com.

For more on Jo-Anne Coletti, visit vintagerosecollection.com.



THE HISTORY OF IRISH LACE

Early lace making in Ireland was a cottage industry where young women wove, using their needles and bobbins as a source of income to help support their families after the great potato famine in the mid-19th century. Catholic nuns also taught the intricate craft in schools and convents.

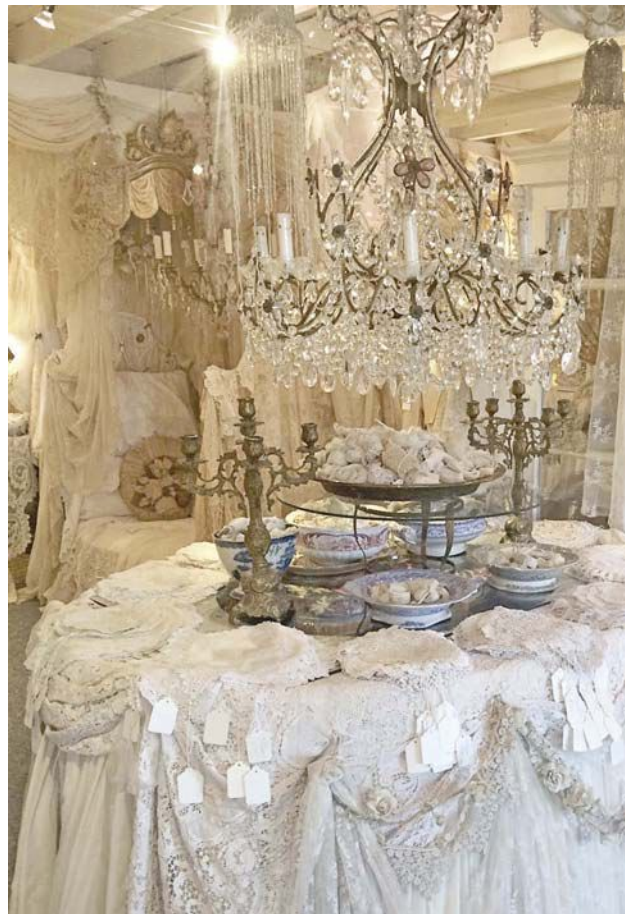
Some of the patterns were influenced by Venetian needlepoint laces of Italy. Irish Youghal lace was discovered unexpectedly when the Mother Superior at a local convent unraveled some old Italian needlepoint lace and passed the knowledge on to her students.

The industry grew significantly during the late 1800s into the early 1900s but began to decline when machine lace was introduced.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96







CARING FOR LACE

Old lace is fragile, but if the piece is strong, you can gently hand wash it in cool water with a mild soap, according to Mary Marlowe Leverette with About Home. Avoid scrubbing and do not wring to remove water, which could damage fragile fibers; instead squeeze gently and dry flat on a white towel.

If the lace is fragile, it is best left alone; it will always be beautiful as is. If ironing is necessary, place a thick white towel over the ironing board and use a press cloth between the iron and the lace. This will prevent damage to the details of the lace and prevent snags that can tear.

“If it’s a small piece of lace you love, frame it so that it can be admired as it is—after all, it is a **work of art.**”

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A collage of autumn-themed items. At the top, several paper straws with various patterns (orange and white zigzag, orange and white stripes, grey and white stripes, yellow and white stripes) are arranged diagonally. To the right is a large orange pumpkin with a dark stem. To the left of the large pumpkin is a smaller yellow pumpkin. The background features several geometric paper fans or napkins with patterns: a red one with white interlocking circles, a white one with a grey zigzag pattern, and a white one with a grey chevron pattern. In the bottom left corner, there is a small yellow pumpkin.

Start Celebrating!

Take on the fall holidays with
beautiful, festive details.

Written and photographed by Jacqueline deMontravel



I T IS THE HIGH SEASON FOR CELEBRATIONS,

which in our household begins at the first pumpkin sighting. The giddiness erupts when hauling the heavy gourds into a shopping cart. If you choose the right ones, fresh and firm, and if they are helped along with some seasonal cool temperatures, the pumpkins can last until Christmas.

An autumnal infestation sweeps across neighborhoods, where holiday zealots style

their porches with bushels of hay, mums in every shade and artistically strewn leaves. If you have a child, the holidays become even more of an event. You succumb to plastic skeletons posed on Adirondack chairs, perhaps comically dressed, though an inflatable ghost seems like a flight risk on blustery days as proven by a surplus of deflated ghouls on front yards.



AUTUMN is also the last time of the year when entertaining outdoors is an option for cooler territories. Despite a brisk wind and the occasional fallen leaf, style your setting as you would your dining table. Transport padded items carefully in a wagon, use the surrounding colors as your guide and incorporate your gourds to really hit the fall note. Add thoughtful touches such as folded blankets on the chairs and perhaps some comfortable sweaters for the unprepared guest. When decorating with gourds, the more and varied the better, such as pink heirloom pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns with artfully carved faces and motifs.

HALLOWEEN, which extends beyond bags of candy and an attack of Ninja Turtles, may be the most spirited event of the year. Organize a neighborhood pre-trick-or-treat meal, which may be memorable but short as tugs on your jacket set off the candy-gathering frenzy. Take turns escorting the kids and manning the goody station so every member of the family can experience Halloween in all its fun.

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THANKSGIVING, a more formal, classic style settles in. Dust off your favorite pieces and set the table for celebration. The standouts will shine, perhaps creating a theme, but you can still surprise guests with an unexpected take on the traditional, like metallic-painted acorns, striped straws and flowers in vessels in warmer-season hues. What you serve can also tantalize, such as pumpkin bread with tomato pepper jam.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 96



THIS PAGE: SET YOUR THANKSGIVING TABLE with unexpected pieces like glittery acorns or summer-hued accessories.

OPPOSITE: TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FAIR FALL WEATHER and throw an outdoor celebration inspired by the colors of the season.





TIPS

With a little ingenuity, you can make the events leading up to Christmas memorable.

- **Buntings** draped across a fence or tree add color and speak of the season in a playful way.

- **Create a trick-or-treat station** with decorative additions such as orange lights, glow sticks given out as treats, haunting music, mini pumpkins and apples.

- **Style a table** with pizzazz by avoiding expected pieces and weaving in more whimsical items.

- **Keep comfort in mind** with warm additions such as pillows and tartan blankets.

- **Experiment with new recipes**, which are more appreciated than store-bought goods.



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Endless BEAUTY

The historic building where this shop owner lives and works is decorated in antique style from basement to attic, and she wouldn't have it any other way.


By Liselotte Flu/IDECORimages.com

Photography by Rene Gonkel/IDECORimages.com

Styling by Jasmine Stegeman/IDECORimages.com



*“Old things have a
story that touches me
AND I THINK IT’S
JUST BEAUTIFUL.”*



SHOW BUILT AND INSTALLED
RADIATOR COVERS THROUGHOUT
THE HOUSE. Two antique shutters
dress the window. The cushion
covers are made from antique
French and English curtains.



JEANETTE FEATHER IS PASSION-ATE ABOUT ANTIQUES,

so it's absolutely fitting that she lives and works in a building that's over 650 years old. She grew up in the center of Nijmegen, the oldest city in The Netherlands, and longed to return to the area, so when she saw a property available near St. Steven's Church and Tower, she and her husband, Show, the owner of a construction company, jumped at the opportunity.

The couple purchased the five-story building eight years ago. Jeanette's shop, Philipse Vintage & Brocante, is located on the ground floor, while the couple and their dogs inhabit the three upper floors.

Because they live in a historic building, Jeanette and Show had to keep the home's layout intact but were able to refurbish the interior. Jeanette regularly gives the interior a makeover. Show jokes that the rooms are all an inch narrower thanks to all those layers of paint.

Through her shop, Jeanette offers interior decorating services and twice yearly will redecorate an entire house. She readily shares tips on how to get an antique feel in any home.



LIFELONG PASSION

Jeanette inherited her love of old things from her parents and grandparents. She practically grew up in her parents' antiques business, and while her friends sought shiny new stuff on shopping trips, Jeanette preferred to collect vintage pottery and clothing.

Today everything in her house is antique or vintage, from furniture to crockery, linen to the mannequins.


"Old things have a story that touches me, and I think it's just beautiful," Jeannette says.



PERSONAL TOUCH

Go through your drawers, closets and bins to find important items from your past that tell your story. Consider photographs and accent side tables, mantels and furniture with favorite books, beloved stuffed animals, heirloom jewelry or even items of clothing. Why hide away all these treasures and mementos? Bring them out of storage to add something uniquely you to your home.





JEANETTE GAVE THE WALLS AN AGED LOOK using a sponge-paint technique. The antique chair in Louis XIV style fits well with the shutters Jeanette brought from France. The dresser is from Sweden.



ACCENTUATING THE SPACE

The house is long and narrow but feels spacious inside thanks to clever decorating. The dining table was situated lengthwise to emphasize the shape of the room. The ceilings are painted off-white, and almost all the furniture is light in color to enlarge the space. Jeanette bought the table, chairs and chandelier in France.

FIXED UP

The antique sofa in the living room nearly fell apart when Jeanette bought it. Fortunately, an uncle of Show's reupholstered the piece, and now it will last for years. The pillows are either vintage or from Jeanette's store.

Two old shutters serve as decoration on the windowsill. On the wall hangs an antique coat rack accented with picture frames. The wooden floor is painted dark gray, a blend of new paint and old leftover paint Jeanette created.

ACCENT WALLS

The matte purple walls are a wonderful backdrop for antique prints and photographs. The large painting came from her childhood home. The antique fashion print came from France. The charcoal was found at a flea market in Nijmegen.

For other walls Jeanette used new wall paint mixed with leftover wall paint. Faded colors blend well with her vintage and antique décor.

For more on Jeanette, visit philipsevintageenbrocante.nl/en_GB.



JEANETTE BOUGHT THE ANTIQUES SHOP SHOWCASE FOR HER STORE, but she loved it so much that now it's in the house. She's had the white Regout service since she was 15.



ROOM BY ROOM

The bathroom floor tiles are made of natural stone. "They are a bit battered, which I find pretty," Jeanette says. An antique mirror and sconces complete the look and tie the bathroom in with the style of the rest of the home.





GET THE LOOK

Jeanette Feather helps her customers and clients create beautiful antique-inspired homes. Here she shares a few of her musts for achieving this style.

- An interior in this style looks best when pieces are a little worn. Slight flaws and imperfections ensure that romantic, nostalgic atmosphere.
- Opt for pale colors, off-white and taupe tones.
- Purchase furniture in its original condition and preserve it as much as possible. If a piece looks too new, Jeanette will distress it to make it look old and worn.

tips

Instead of being deterred, work within restrictions to make a home your own. Can't change the layout? Paint the walls. Can't paint? Focus on the accents. Can't stand the carpet but can't rip it out? Invest in area rugs.

Using a dark paint color can make a room appear larger by reducing shadows and obscuring the wall and ceiling lines.



COMFY, COZY

Pillows are an easy way to dress up a room and freshen up your décor. They also make a room feel comfortable and inviting. Use pastels and floral prints in the spring and summer. Opt for darker, richer fabrics in the fall and winter. If you're handy with a needle and thread, you can make covers that will easily slip on and off, then stow away flat in a linen closet or chest off-season. You can add vintage flair by using linens scored at flea markets or secondhand stores.





Swedish Farmhouse Style

A woman brings her native country's decorative sensibilities to her American home.

By Meryl Schoenbaum
Photography by John Hall
Styling by Jacqueline deMontravel

THE BLUE FRONT DOOR WITH RED TRIM was shipped from Sweden. It adds to the authentic European flavor of the room.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL

MARI LINNMAN REMEMBERS HER CHILDHOOD VERY WELL

In fact, her fond memories of summers spent on her relatives' dairy farm

inspired her to recreate them as an adult—with some modifications and a change in location from Sweden to The Hamptons on Long Island in New York.

"Those memories stuck with me through life," Mari says. "I wanted other children to be able to experience farm life. My idea was to have a summer camp for inner-city kids."

Within a short period of time, her idea took root and grew even beyond her imagination, first through the founding of The Art Farm.

"At first, we only had three campers in the program, but in a few years we had 400 children a day on 10 acres in Bridgehampton, Long Island, coming from as far away as France, London and Hong Kong," Mari says. For 20 years, kids came to the farm, many the children of famous actors, actresses and musicians.


Ten years ago, Mari built her home in nearby Sagaponack. The 5-acre property includes Mari's Swedish-inspired farmhouse and a year-round school called The Green School, a small preschool for children ages 2 through 5 that gives them the opportunity to learn about animals.

"It's a Montessori-inspired school with hands-on learning and working with animals," Mari explains. "The kids recycle and compost lunch leftovers, and then bring them to the chicken coop so the chickens produce eggs. They love looking for eggs."

MARI'S HOME IS A CHARMING MIX OF ANTIQUE PIECES

and fresh-looking colors.





THE LIVING ROOM IS A CHEERFUL, COMFORTABLE SPACE.
Large windows with sheer curtains let the sun stream in freely.
A Mora clock is an essential element in Swedish style.

BOLD COLORS ON THE WALLS AND WINDOW TRIM balance the dark wood of the brown trestle table.



THIS BEAUTIFUL CHANDELIER, TABLE, CHAIRS AND SOFA (behind the table) were from Mari's grandmother. A large panel of windows adds natural light to the room.





OLD MILK PAILS ON THE FIREPLACE HEARTH were bought at a Swedish auction. A red vintage popcorn machine adds a whimsical pop of color.



Children are taught how to care for the planet and animals, create art, cook and more in the ecofriendly space. Among the farm animals the kids interact with are goats, pigs, sheep, chickens, rabbits, a donkey and horses (horseback riding is also part of the program). Mari, a single mom with two boys, ages 7 and 16, runs the school with teachers and an assistant who have been with her for a decade.

— THE FARMHOUSE —

Mari's farmhouse style was inspired by the home of Carl Larsson, a popular European artist from the 1800s. His home was near Mari's in Sweden, and she fell in love with the style. She recreated his photos and books in her own home.

"Almost every piece of furniture here came from Sweden," Mari says—and she has her mother to thank for most of it. Mari's mom, who lives in Sweden, placed bids at furniture auctions there and snapped up several antique pieces and a Mora clock for Mari.

The rooms are a tasteful mix of antiques, art and accessories. The color palette Mari selected is a reflection of the clear, bright colors she painted the exteriors of the buildings. Every room exudes the simple, classic charm of Swedish style.

After speaking with her about where she lives, it becomes clear that sharing her love of farm life with kids is Mari's favorite kind of Swedish style.

For more information on The Art Farm, visit the theartfarms.org. For more information about The Green School, visit the the-green-school.org.

THE KITCHEN
FEATURES A
GLEAMING
SILVER ANTIQUE
STOVE. Blue and
white painted tiles
add a charming
European touch to
the walls.





THE DIMINUTIVE TABLE AND
CHAIRS in this sitting area
were purchased by Mari's
mother at a Swedish auction.

GET *the look*

Homeowner Mari Linnman shares three ways to recreate her Swedish-influenced farmhouse style.

- **Use bold colors.** Clear, bright primary colors—especially reds and blues—add a fun, inviting look to interiors, exteriors and accessories.
- **Keep it simple.** Swedish style is minimalist in its approach, never ornate or frilly. The furniture should have clean lines. Less is more when it comes to this décor style.
- **Have generous outdoor seating.** Living on a farm is all about interacting with animals and nature. Create plenty of sitting areas for guests—and yourself—to enjoy the great outdoors.



MARI'S MOTHER PURCHASED THE ANTIQUE WOODEN SOFA at an auction in Sweden. Throw pillows with animals fit in perfectly with the farmhouse style.



THE HANDPAINTED
BORDER NEAR THE
CEILING was inspired
by the designs of Carl
Larsson, widely consid-
ered the creator of
Swedish style.



THE WOODEN FOLDING TABLE
FITS THIS BATHROOM SPACE
nicely and is a great way to display
and organize bath accessories. A
wash basin and wall faucet add to
the vintage-farmhouse style.



The Little Green Cottage

An Oregon homeowner's light and airy home is brought to life by renewing old goods.

By Jenna Dixon

Photography by Alexandra Smith



"I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT MY HOME
FEELS COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING
AND THAT ALL THE PIECES IN THE HOUSE
HAVE STORIES TO TELL."



[ABOVE] WARMTH AND TEXTURE are brought to this typewriter desk with succulents and adorable knitted pot covers.

[OPPOSITE] LIGHT AND BRIGHT, the main room serves many purposes: living room, entertainment center, workspace and dining room. Nontraditional art graces the main room's wall and is used throughout the home. Vintage metal trays, antique printed flour sacks and little girls' dresses adorn the home.

LOCATED IN PORTLAND, OREGON, DESIGNER, SEAMSTRESS and blogger Alexandra Smith uses a curated palette of light, airy hues to capitalize on the natural light of her 1950s stucco bungalow home. Affectionately known as The Little Green Cottage, the bungalow is beaming with vintage personality and charm, thanks to Alexandra's flea-market finds.

As a young girl, Alexandra cultivated her love and passion for vintage items through trips to flea markets, estate sales and yard sales with her mother.



tips:

- **SUITCASES MAKE FOR GREAT SEASONAL STORAGE.** Display special items in a vignette that tells a story of cherished memories.
- **VINTAGE SHEETS** aren't just for beds but have a variety of uses, including transforming an old couch into something charming, as curtains or for making children's forts.
- **SEWING PROJECTS SHOULDN'T BE STASHED AWAY.** Display your works in progress in creative ways, like on an antique hook rail.



[ABOVE] OPEN SHELVING ALLOWS ALEXANDRA to enjoy and share her collection of vintage canning jars and pitchers. Old crocks make perfect utensil holders.

[CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT] ALEXANDRA LOVES TO USE OLD SUITCASES for seasonal storage and to create vignettes of special items that tell a tale of cherished memories.

ALEXANDRA USES AN OLD HOOK RAIL TO HOLD HER WORKS IN PROGRESS, space that is ever changing with each new sewing project.

WITH A COUPLE OF COATS OF PAINT AND NEW DRAWER HANDLES, this little desk was brought back to life. The industrial orange chair adds a pop of color and makes a visually pleasing arrangement. Over the desk hangs a charming vintage sheet turned curtain.

"My mother would bring me along on her excursions and taught me how to spot the diamond in the rough and the hidden gem; to see what had potential and what was best left behind," she says.

For a collector, living in an 800-square-foot home with a family of three can be challenging, as can leaving a lot of vintage finds behind. The Little Green Cottage is full of personal treasures and great vintage finds without feeling cluttered—Alexandra edits her stash frequently and collects with intent. Neutral hues throughout the cottage provide a canvas that lets each item stand on its own to create a story and add visual appeal.

A PERSONAL TOUCH

With an eclectically styled home, it is important that things flow well and work cohesively. Alexandra suggests choosing treasures that speak to you, not just choosing the latest and greatest trends.

"I may pass over the latest vintage trend in pursuit of something that tells me a story, something that makes my heart leap," she says.

To be able to see potential in an item, and be willing to give it new life through repurposing, is key when looking for flea-market items.

The repurposing and mixing in of non-traditional items is one way to personalize your home and tell a story. Alexandra's love of vintage 1940s tablecloths led her to repurpose them into curtains, bedspreads and occasionally use them on tables.

Vintage sheets repurposed into curtains let the sunshine filter through the home for an airy, welcoming feel. Her vintage collections are shared and enjoyed on open kitchen shelving, vignettes on old suitcases and sewing projects on an old hook rail, and each display is carefully curated with love and passion.

"I really appreciate that my home feels comfortable and welcoming and that all the pieces in the house have stories to tell," she says. "A good flea-market find is often the start of a great conversation."

"I MAY PASS
OVER THE LATEST
VINTAGE TREND
IN PURSUIT OF
SOMETHING THAT
TELLS ME A STORY,
SOMETHING THAT
MAKES MY
HEART LEAP."



[ABOVE] COLLECTIONS
DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE
confined to a glass cabinet or
bookshelf. An eclectic mix of
vintage treasures can bring
visual appeal on a small table.



[LEFT] ALEXANDRA TOOK
INSPIRATION from her daughter's vibrant and quirky personality when decorating her bedroom. A collection of quilts picked up over the years brings color and a unique feel to the space.

Get the Look

Achieving an eclectic look that's not cluttered is no easy task, especially when working with a small space. Here are some of Alexandra's tips for creating an intermingled space that flows well and works cohesively.

- Use statement pieces of furniture to make the room interesting. Give your flea-market pieces a new look with a bold coat of paint in a color that complements your color palette.
- Group smaller items and display them in collections on open shelving or other surfaces. Place small but meaningful elements like antique mirrors in multiples on a wall to create a focal point. Arranging items together will help you create attractive displays rather than cluttered surfaces.
- Use window treatments, tablecloths and antique quilts to incorporate color and pattern into a space without a long-term commitment.

For more information on Alexandra, visit lolanovablog.blogspot.com.



Vintage treasures

are meant for showing off. Give them the recognition they deserve, so they can be openly admired.

This mantel

is brought to life through the use of simple tin cans as planters. The variety of objects, paired with pops of color, creates a unique yet cohesive design.





NEVER SKIPPING A *beat*

In the heart of this home is so much more than just a kitchen. It is a hardworking, multitasking little space full of life and charm.

Written, styled and photographed by Melinda Graham

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE HEART OF A HOME IS THE KITCHEN.



For most homes, it is the central gathering place for family and friends. But for this charming home, the kitchen is also the hardest working room in the house. The compact space serves as a cozy dining room, pantry, potting bench, full-service laundry room, viewing deck for the garden and its guests, as well as the galley. This kitchen is little but mighty.

Here, as with many small spaces, implementing an efficient design in the limited square footage posed a huge challenge. Making a full-service kitchen was the greatest hurdle. Once the appliances and sink were in place, the remaining space for counters and cabinets was almost nonexistent. There was a small utility closet wedged between the pantry and the laundry closet; the door was removed and shelves were installed to increase

THIS PAGE: JUST BECAUSE A SPACE IS SMALL doesn't mean an island is out of the question. There are a mere 4 linear feet of counter space in this entire kitchen, so the island provides additional work surface area and storage, as well as a central spot for beautiful vignettes in between meals. Small kitchen means small island, not no island at all.

OPPOSITE: SITUATED DIRECTLY BEHIND THE DINING TABLE is the pantry. This long wall was once lined with plain painted doors. Now the pantry is nothing short of majestic. The impressive, heavily carved doors are flanked by turned posts and topped with a piece of architectural salvage. The utility closet to the right of the pantry is now a set of built-in shelves and home to a collection of vintage picnic baskets.

CLEVER MAKEOVER OF WOODEN BIFOLD DOORS

Many homes have doors that are not ideal in their design or appearance. There are a few ways to make simple cosmetic changes that can transform boring, run-of-the-mill doors into beautiful, one-of-a-kind masterpieces.

1. Take the doors down, removing them from the tracks, and place them in a work area large enough to lay them out on the floor.
2. Remove the panels. Some doors have wooden panel inserts that can be pried out, while others may need to be cut out using a saw.
3. Gently sand any rough edges. Clean the entire door surface and allow it to dry.
4. Protect floors and work surfaces by using a tarp or drop cloth.
5. Paint the door, making sure to cover the edges and sides between the hinged openings. Follow with a second coat of paint if needed.
6. Allow the paint to not only dry but also cure. Check the paint can label for required cure times.
7. Distress the edges by gently sanding the areas that would naturally wear with time.
8. Screw teacup hooks into the back of the door at the top and bottom of the openings.
9. Make a burlap café curtain by cutting a piece of fabric 3 inches longer than the opening and one-and-a-half times the width. Sew a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch rod pocket at the top and bottom, and hem the edges with a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch tucked fold.
10. Place café curtain rods along the top and bottom; then secure them to the back of the door on the hooks.
11. Hang the doors back on their tracks.

THE LAUNDRY ROOM in this home is tucked into a small closet in the hallway that runs between the balcony and the kitchen. No one would know that these charming, casually chic doors are hiding the washer and dryer.





storage. Vintage picnic baskets were filled with table linens and culinary items that did not fit into the cabinets. To accommodate the lack of counter and work surface, a butcher-block island was placed in the center of the room, but put on casters so it can be easily wheeled out of the way.

Finding space in a crowded kitchen to incorporate an eating area is another challenge. A table was custom made using an antique iron table base and a round top fashioned out of reclaimed wood. The round shape allows for easy access to the deck and pantry. Mismatched chairs and wood finishes add interest and mirror the eclectic flair of the rest of the kitchen.

The long wall that houses the pantry, shelves and laundry was once the "wall of doors." After the center door was removed for the shelving, the next task was to create interest around the pantry. A heavy carved Indonesian door was cut in half to craft double doors. The opening was then framed with painted porch posts and topped with a piece of architectural salvage. The cherry on top was the mounting of a large ironstone platter above the door.

The remaining wooden bifold doors on the laundry closet were given a makeover as well. The center panels were removed, the doors were painted and distressed; then bleached burlap

TOP: FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS don't have to be large and elaborate to be impactful. A single stem in an old bottle can be just the right touch for a space.

LEFT: THIS TABLE SETTING IS SIMPLE YET ELEGANT ALL THE SAME. Try to keep a color palette in mind when setting a table. The fall harvest is beautifully reflected in this table: red transferware china, orange Fenton cake pedestal, natural wooden ice bucket, retro apple-pattern napkins, vintage lace tablecloth and the vibrant mix of flowers. This is autumnal elegance.



TIPS:

Be sure to surround yourself with items that bring you joy and reflect your passions in life. This little kitchen is peppered with vintage garden treasures, and there is seldom a day that fresh-cut flowers from the gardens below don't line the windowsills and grace the table.

Don't be overly concerned about trying to match wood tones, even in a small room. The variations of color and grain add interest and depth without a lot of distracting patterns from fabrics and rugs. In this era of painted and whitewashed furniture, sometimes wood tones are all the color and pattern a room requires.

Think double duty when designing a small kitchen. In this kitchen, open shelves are a perfect display for a collection of vintage baskets. Not only beautiful, they are also terrific storage for miscellaneous culinary accoutrements.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP • **FLORAL CENTERPIECES DON'T NEED TO BE FUSSY OR EXPENSIVE.** A handful of lush blossoms placed in a vintage wooden ice bucket are the perfect recipe for a romantic country centerpiece. • **ITEMS LIKE SMALL STEP STOOLS** not only blend well with the décor of a vintage kitchen but also are handy to have around. They make it possible to reach into the highest cabinets and also provide additional seating in a pinch. • **NO ONE WOULD KNOW THAT THIS IMPRESSIVE ENTRANCE** leads to a shelf-lined closet filled with spices, flour and mixing bowls. Having a little mystery is always a good thing; it allows your guests' imaginations to run free.



café curtains were added to the openings. The once boring and repetitive “wall of doors” now captivates with striking charm.

Another unique element in this kitchen comes from the homeowner’s love of gardening. Vintage rakes and hand tools are the go-to accessories. The kitchen is perfectly situated overlooking the gardens below. Although this floor plan is a bit unusual in that the kitchen is two stories above the ground, it provides a glorious vantage point for viewing the gardens, and in the kitchen you are at eye level with the birds in the trees. Strategically placed in the center of the kitchen is an elevator that drops straight to the gardens below. The large antique farm sink was a wise choice not only for cooking duties, but it is also the first stop for flowers as they enter the home: a quick ride up the elevator and straight into the sink to become beautiful centerpieces.

The footprint of this kitchen is not very big, but what it lacks in size, it makes up for in charm. The color palette is primarily the various wood tones of the floors, doors, furnishings and accessories. The layout is compact, which only adds to the cozy nature of the space. Large sliding glass doors and windows allow for sun-filled days and stargazing nights. A peppering of vintage garden accessories reflects the homeowner’s love of the surrounding grounds and their feathered visitors.

It is a hard-working, multitasking, unique little kitchen tucked into the tree-tops. The heart of this home is constantly beating strong, aflutter with activity and pumping joy into everyone who enters.

TOP: EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK IN THIS KITCHEN there is a special little detail tucked in and waiting to be discovered. On the stack of picnic baskets next to the sliding doors is a pair of antique binoculars. They are ready to see which feathered guests are visiting the birdfeeders right outside the door.

LEFT: IN THIS KITCHEN THE LINES BETWEEN potting bench and food prep station are often blurred. The oversized antique farm sink can beautifully perform both tasks.

Personalize





TASSELED *napkins*

Use this project to decorate your tables for special occasions or to dress up an everyday table.

Written, photographed and styled by Ayda Algin

SOME PEOPLE LIKE TO DECORATE TABLES

only for special and important dates like Christmas. Others, like me, believe that every lunch or dinner is special and deserves a nice table. I love table settings and try to make intriguing tablescapes for each meal, even if I'm dining alone. This is not very difficult; sometimes it can be enough to add a bunch of flowers or a pretty tablecloth.

One of the most important pieces for a table setting is a stylish napkin, like these tasseled napkins I made. It's an easy project that can be pulled off in an afternoon. The only steps are cutting fabric into squares, sewing in straight lines and adding tiny colorful tassels.

Personalize



WHAT YOU'LL NEED



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Fabric (or you can use some napkins you already have)
- A few different colors of embroidery floss
- Silver thread
- Scissors
- Needle
- Sewing thread

WHAT YOU'LL DO

Note: I sewed a new napkin for this project, but if you want, you can use existing napkins.

1. To make a new napkin, cut an approximately 14- x 14-inch piece of plain or patterned fabric. Press under the edges of your fabric about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch twice. Make sure to hide all the raw edges. At the corners, fold one edge over the other and secure it with a pin. After all the edges are pressed, topstitch straight and close to the folded edge. Trim your threads.

2. I used a few different colors of embroidery floss for mini tassels and bound some tassels with silvery thread for a stylish look. (See the sidebar for more on how to make the tassels.)



I SEWED THE
TASSELS AROUND
THE NAPKIN
WITH FINE
SEWING THREAD.

HOW TO MAKE TASSELS

There are various methods of creating tassels. Here are the steps I followed for this project.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A few different colors of embroidery floss
- Cardboard
- Scissors

WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Wrap the embroidery floss around a piece of cardboard that has been cut to the length you want for the tassel. When wrapping the thread, wrap fewer times for a thinner tassel.

2. Slide a second piece of thread measuring about 4 inches under the wrapped threads. Slide the thread off the card carefully (without losing any loops), and tie the second piece of thread into a knot to secure the loops together.

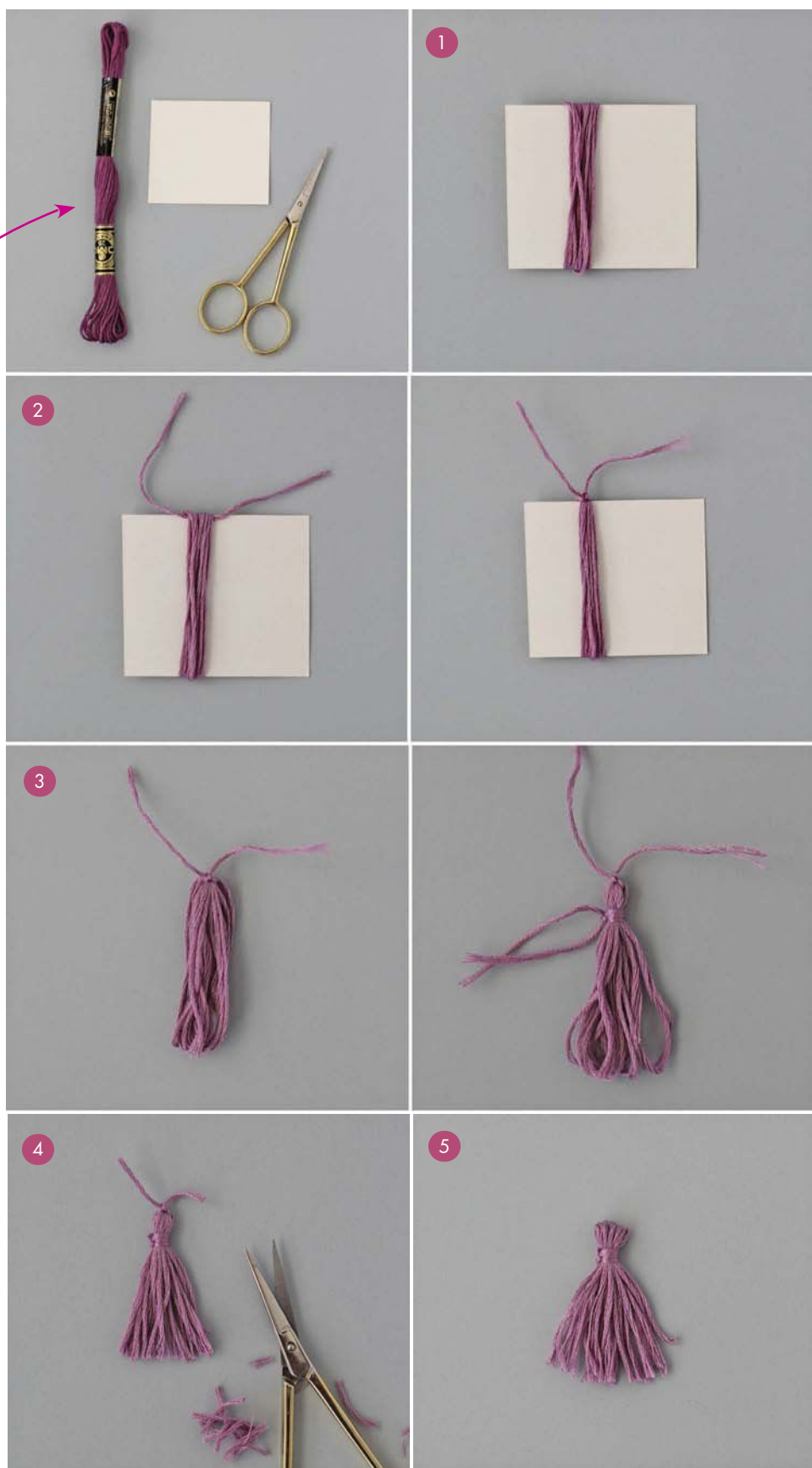
3. Use a third piece of thread measuring about 6 inches to make a loop near the knot. Wrap the remaining thread snugly around the loop to make the neck of the tassel.

4. Slip the end of the thread through the loop you made before wrapping and carefully pull the tail behind the wrapped threads. Trim the excess thread tails.

5. Clip the loops at the opposite end of the tassel, trimming the ends evenly if desired.



For more on Ayda, visit
cafenohut.com.



WAX PAPER TRANSFERRED *Candles*

By Victoria Hudgins

A simple project for creating unique pieces to use throughout your home



***Note:**

You will need an ink-jet printer for this project. Do not try this in your nice laser printer—it will ruin it.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

MATERIALS

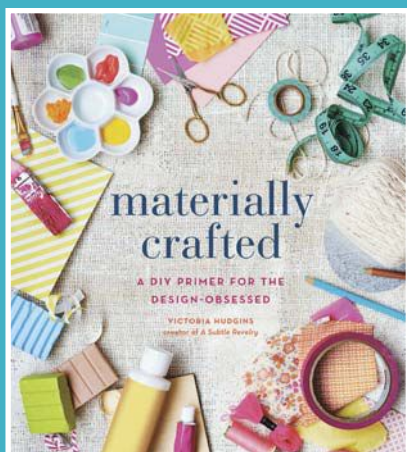
- White taper candles
- Wax paper
- Hot-air gun or blow dryer
- An ink-jet color printer

WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Print onto wax paper the letter, image or design you'd like to transfer onto the candle. The best way to print onto wax paper is to cut a piece of wax paper a couple inches smaller than your normal printing paper and tape the wax paper onto the printing paper, being sure to cover all the edges with tape. Print with the best quality saturation your printer will allow.

- Cut out the letter, image or design you've printed as close to the print lines as possible. Discard the extra wax paper and stabilizing paper underneath.

- Place the wax cutout against the candle, with the ink side against the candle, and use a heat gun or blow dryer to heat the wax paper. It will begin to slowly melt on the sides and transfer the printing directly onto the candle. Allow the candle to cool before using it.



For more projects, check out *Materially Crafted: A DIY Primer for the Design-Obsessed* by Victoria Hudgins, published by Abrams Books/STC Craft, © 2015; abramsbooks.com.



• Place your candles in taper holders and around the room for a lively celebration.



SECRET *Gardens*

By Rebekah Wahlberg

Photography by Hugo Rittson-Thomas, courtesy of Frances Lincoln Limited

C Learn how these celebrated English gardeners created their iconic, artful landscapes in Victoria Summerley's book, *Secret Gardens of the Cotswolds*.

ULTIVATING A BEAUTIFUL, UNIQUE GARDEN

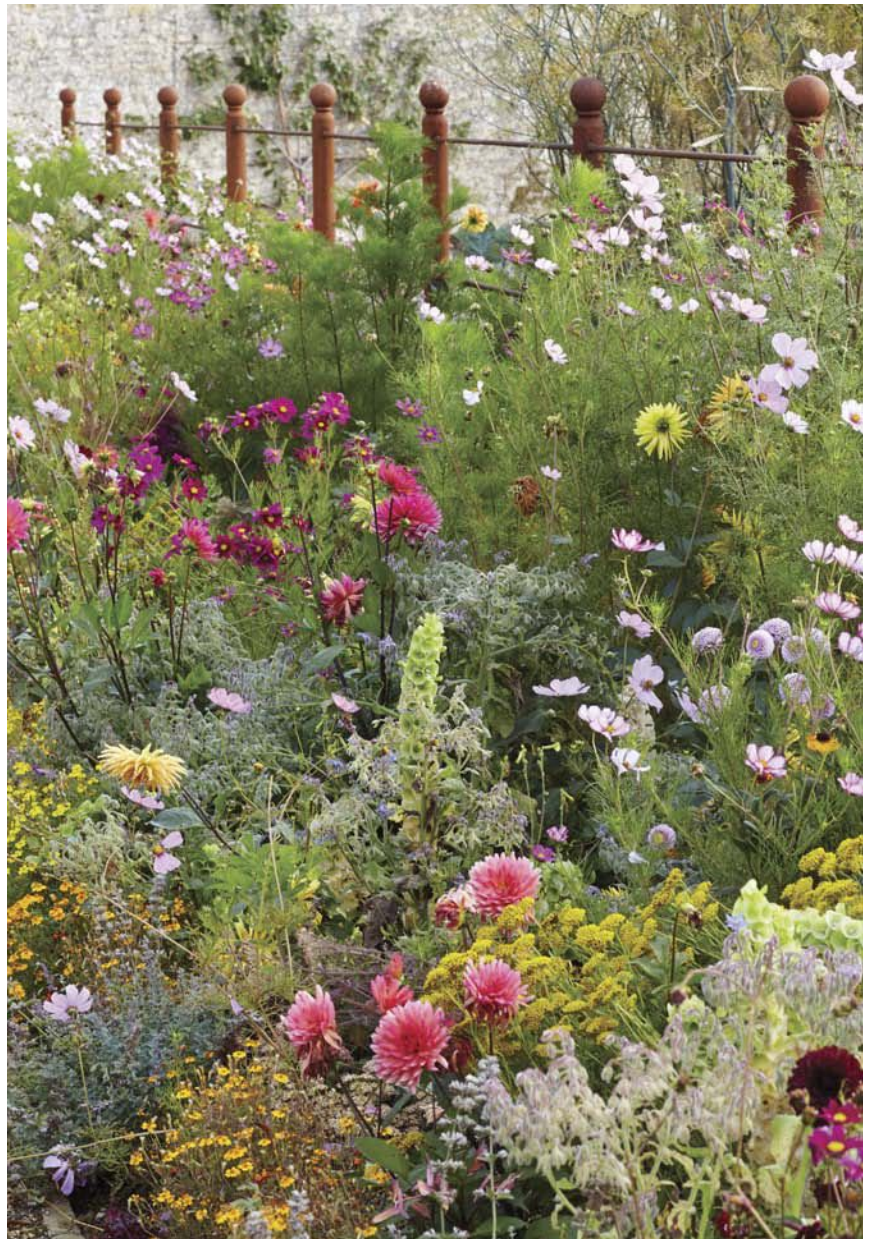
is no small task, but the reward of looking out over a verdant vista of your own creation is well worth the effort—and no one knows gardening like the English. Explore 20 private gardens in rural southern England with garden journalist and author Victoria Summerley in her book *Secret Gardens of the Cotswolds*. Tales of these gardens range from one homeowner who brought in literally tons of topsoil to help his favorite plants flourish to a family who converted their acreage into a wildlife refuge teeming with rhinoceroses, zebras, giraffes and many more exotic animals.

Of course, not everyone can afford to completely transform their garden in such a way. The principles, though, remain the same—creating a stunning garden is as simple as not being afraid to try something out of the ordinary.

EXOTIC INSPIRATION

Take a trip to faraway lands right outside your own home by incorporating flora and décor with a taste of the exotic. In Cotswold Wildlife Park, the zoo's owners opted to grow hardier alternatives to exotic tropical plants, like indestructible bamboo and resilient bananas, to recreate that tropical vibe without the task of maintaining a humid, warm habitat year round. Other flowers, such as dahlias and crocosmia, give the garden bright, tropical coloring, free of the pressure of constant care.

In addition to a garden's plant life, its architecture, layout and décor help



AT BURFORD PRIORY, a former monastery, the cutting garden features classic flowers such as cosmos, marigolds and scabiosas.

A high-angle photograph of a formal garden on a steep slope. A central stone path leads down a series of terraces, with a narrow water channel running alongside it. The garden is filled with meticulously manicured trees, including several large, rounded topiary trees and smaller, conical shrubs. Flower beds with various plants, including purple irises and pink roses, are interspersed throughout. In the foreground, a stone balustrade with two cherub statues flanks a set of stone steps. A black metal railing with ornate scrollwork is positioned just above the steps. The background is a dense forest of tall trees.

EASTLEACH HOUSE'S RILL GARDEN is on a steep slope, so it appears shorter than it actually is. The true illusion, though, is the detail packed into the space—the rill garden teems with sorbus, golden dwarf thuja, box hedge, and countless flowers and shrubs.

"With every bit of the garden,
I tried to create a picture."



NEPETA PLANTS (OR CATMINTS) under a verdant pergola at Eastleach House act as a gently colorful guide down a path to a stone fountain.

FLOWER POWER

Flowers are an important part of every garden, bringing color, life and seasonal personality. The gardeners in Victoria Summerley's *Secret Gardens of the Cotswolds* chose their blooms with care, precision and pride to craft a beautiful growing space. Here are some of the most common flowers found in these English gardens, and a little bit on how to care for them:

- CLEMATIS:** Perennial, full sun, loamy soil
- COSMOS:** Annual, full sun, loamy soil
- CROCUSES:** Perennial, full sun, any soil
- DAHLIA:** Perennial, full sun, loamy soil
- DELPHINIUM:** Perennial, full sun, loamy soil
- GERANIUMS:** Perennial, full sun, sandy soil
- MARIGOLD:** Annual, full sun, loamy soil
- NEPETAS (ALSO KNOWN AS CATMINT):** Perennial, full sun, sandy soil
- ROSE:** Perennial, full sun, loamy soil
- SCABIOSA:** Annual or perennial varieties, full sun, loamy soil
- SHASTA DAISY:** Perennial, full sun, any soil
- TULIPS:** Perennial, full sun, sandy soil
- ZINNIAS:** Annual, full sun, any soil

create the overall mood. At Sezincote in Gloucestershire, English landscaping meets Indian-inspired architecture and décor in a way that merges traditional and exotic, the familiarity of home and the excitement of somewhere new. Elephant motifs and statues of Hindu gods pay homage to Indian culture while creating a distinct garden design.

HOMEMADE FLAIR

Recycled doesn't have to mean worn-out, and Eastleach House is the perfect example of that. The owners of this garden gem took a homemade but refined attitude toward creating their designs, inventing their garden one bit at a time rather than formulating a single grand plan. Many of the garden's features—chairs, stone plinths and even plant cuttings—are recycled or borrowed from other sources, but you'd never know it by looking at them; every piece looks right at home in Eastleach, as if it had been there forever.



"With every bit of the garden, I tried to create a picture," Eastleach owner Stephanie Richards told Summerley. Using the materials she had at hand and her own distinctive style, Stephanie cultivated a garden that is just as singular as the process of making it.

BURFORD PRIORY'S GREENHOUSE is full to bursting with moisture-loving greenery such as orchids and pelargoniums.

ROSES TAKE CENTER STAGE IN ONE GARDEN ROOM AT WESTWELL MANOR. Box balls provide an alternative to box hedging, while an antique stone obelisk serves as a focal point underneath an arch of roses.



Secret Gardens of the Cotswolds: A Personal Tour of 20 Private Gardens by Victoria Summerley, published by Frances Lincoln Limited, © 2015; franceslincoln.com.



Shopping Guide

So Pretty

pages 20–21

National Restorations LLC, (877) 884-9446 or nationalrestore.com.

Schoenbauer Furniture Service, (800) 955-7603 or schoenbauer.com.

Say Ahh

pages 38–42

Irish Crochet Lab: Visit irishcrochetlab.com.

Entertaining

pages 44–48

Artesano dinnerware: (800) 845-5376 or villeroy-boch.com.

Bonnie Brae tablecloth: (212) 764-6644 or libeco.com.

Chambord runner: (203) 329-8248 or juliab.com.

Chilewich dahlia gold placemat: Visit vertigohome.us.

Cloth banner: Visit lemonystitch.etsy.com.

Fall bunting banner: Visit ichabodsimagination.etsy.com.

Fall bunting banner: Visit withlovekenzieann.etsy.com.

Filigree servers: (201) 381-1977 or luckyden.com.

Give Thanks banner: Visit

littlelovelane.etsy.com.

Gold metallic confetti: Visit

lesnanaserie.etsy.com.

Moonstruck chocolate: (800) 557-6666 or moonstruckchocolate.com.

Napkin rings: (888) 851-7130 or chilewich.com.

Painted acorns: Visit woodsandwhimsy.com.

Pink pumpkins: (813) 254-0769 or pinkpumpkinpatch.org.

Pumpkin bread: (615) 775-3329 or soberdough.com.

Rectangular tray, candlestick holders: (612) 338-9100 or juliaknightcollection.com.

Tassel garland: Visit charminglykristindesigns.com.

Vetro Gold glasses: (888) 336-4535 or arteitalica.com.



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TOM BOUWER/FEATURES & MORE

DECK THE HALLS!

Get your home ready for seasonal merriment with our November issue. *Romantic Homes*' biggest issue of the year will take you to homes decked out in their holiday best, from classic winter white to charmingly handcrafted to colorful vintage. Whether you favor traditional or eclectic style or a bit of each, you're sure to be inspired.

ad index

Angel Heart Designs.....	angelheartdesigns.com	19
C'est Chouette Home	cestchouettehome.com	13
Canterbury Cottage Designs.....	canterburycottagedesigns.blogspot.com... ..	29
Classy Clutter Gifts	classycluttergifts.com	37
Cottage Flair.....	cottageflair.com	13
Country Roads Antiques	countryroadsantiques.com	99
Do It Yourself Chic	doityourselfchic.com	19
Earth Angels Studios	earthangelsstudios.com	2, 97
Farmhouse Wares	farmhousewares.com	25
Figments Studio	figmentsstudio.com	19
Forget Me Not Dreams	forgetmenotdreams.com	13
French Charmed	frenchcharmed.com	25
Hobnob Market	hobnobmarket.com	25
Meadow Street.....	meadowstreet.com	13
Paris in a Cup	parisincup.com	37
Plaster Paint Company	theplasterpaintco.com	5
Polders Old World Market.....	poldersoldworldmarket.com	25
Rose Blossom Cottage	roseblossomcottage.com	13
Scarlett Rose.....	scarlettseromance.com	97
Silver Spoon Jewelry.....	silverspoonjewelry.com	15
The Fancy Flea	fancyflea.net	29
The Vintage Nest	thevintagenest.com	13
Traditions	christmastraditions.com	7
Vintage Doors LLC	vintagedoors.com	29
Vintage Market & Design	vintagemarketanddesign.com	9
Vintage Market and Salvage Company.....	vintagemarketandsalvage.com... ..	15
Vintage Rose	vintageroseatrichwood.com.....	37
Vintage Rose Collection	vintagerosecollection.com	19
Wesley Allen Beds	wesleyallen.com.....	100

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BARBARA BAMBER

Just a Smidgen

ON HER LIFESTYLE BLOG, JUST A SMIDGEN (JUSTASMIDGEN.COM), Barbara Bamber shares recipes, poems, photographs and DIY projects, often seasonally themed. "It's important to me that my home be a visual reflection of what is happening outside in my garden, so spring means lots of soft colors and pastels, cherry blossoms and baking with rhubarb," she says. "Fall means richer earth tones, like stone-colored linens and brass. And of course, the beautiful rich colors of pumpkin spice latte and pumpkin granola start showing up in my kitchen." Here she shares a few items she'd use "to create a beautiful evening in with friends and family."

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAMS-SONOMA



◀ **WILLIAMS-SONOMA ESSENTIAL OILS COLLECTION, FLEUR DE SEL.** Even cleaning up is a treat with this naturally fragrant Fleur de Sel Collection. I find the scent doesn't transfer a film or residue to hand-washed tableware like some dish soaps do. (williams-sonoma.com)



▲ **COTÉ BASTIDE LINENS.** I have only one of their tea towels and would love to add to my collection. The quality of linen is so delicate and authentically French. I would choose a gorgeous tablecloth and lay it casually across the table. Pillows could be tucked on chairs for a comfy seat. (cotebastide.com)



▲ **CHUTNEY COLLECTION FROM STONEWALL KITCHEN.** Now I know people like to bring gifts to the hostess, but wouldn't it be sweet to give each of your guests a jar from this chutney collection on their way home after a great evening together? It would be a night we'd never forget. (stonewallkitchen.com)

P'I'LO FULL LINEN APRON WITH RECIPE. ▶ I feel so fortunate that I do have one of these aprons already hanging in my kitchen. I love that it easily washes up and becomes softer with time. The printed recipe is such a vintage touch. (pilo.ca)



▲ **PETITE PICARDIE GLASSES.** These sturdy French tumblers would be an authentic way for serving any aperitif or drink, but I think they would be great for a casual glass of wine. (quitokeeto.com)



▲ **FRANDOLINE DINNERWARE FROM ANTHROPOLOGIE.** The simple slate-blue motifs on this stoneware set rest easy on the eyes. I love their thickness and their rustic, imperfect shapes. (anthropologie.com)



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAMS-SONOMA

▲ **FRENCH OLIVE OIL CRUET.** I am always looking for beautiful bottles, such as this cruet by Revol, to store my olive oil in. I tend to buy the same olive oil from Mercato Fine Foods (mercatofinefoods.ca), and this cruet would be a beautiful way to present it on the table. (williams-sonoma.com)

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